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NIJ PROVIDES FURTHER INFORMATION ON ADAM PROGRAM DECISION

Recently, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) announced that a Stop Work Order had been issued for the Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) program data collection effort. This action has been taken in response to the significant reduction in the congressional appropriation to NIJ in fiscal year 2004 for social science research. Although the President's budget requested sufficient funds to continue the ADAM program in fiscal year 2004, the appropriations bill that Congress passed did not appropriate the funds the President requested.

The ADAM program has been the cornerstone of the drugs and crime research portfolio at NIJ for many years. ADAM data have helped to inform both local and national policymakers and practitioners about hardcore drug users, the emergence of new drugs, and the nature of drug markets. However, NIJ's statutory mission is to advance scientific research, development, and evaluation on all aspects of the administration of justice and public safety. No single research program can do that, and the total congressional appropriation to NIJ for all of its social science research for fiscal year 2004 was less than the cost of the ADAM program alone. (For fiscal year 2004, NIJ has received \$6 million for social science research. However, it cost NIJ \$8.4 million to administer the ADAM program in fiscal year 2003). Because of this, NIJ made the difficult choice to discontinue this program for fiscal year 2004.

NIJ will complete the analysis and tabulation of all ADAM data collected in calendar year 2003. These data, along with previous years of ADAM data, will be archived and will continue to be available for secondary analysis by researchers interested in the ADAM program.

In response to requests from Federal policymakers for a national estimate of drug use by persons arrested for crimes, preliminary planning had already begun prior to the passage of the recent appropriations bill to replace the ADAM program with a data collection system that could provide this estimate. This new program would involve approximately 25 "core sites" where data would be collected to both inform local law enforcement practices and contribute to a national estimate of arrestee drug use. Additional sites would be selected to contribute to the national estimate. We believe that a national estimate of arrestee drug use can be produced at a cost that is similar to the current ADAM program through a balance of strategically selected self-representing core sites and carefully timed data collection at other sites. This planning will continue, and NIJ expects this revised arrestee drug abuse monitoring program to be fully implemented if future congressional funding is made available for it.